

## Restaurant

### Industry Insight

**Caribou Coffee Co.** has announced their 'Caribou Cabins' concept. These 600 square foot locations will have a walk-up service counter and a drive-thru but no indoor seating. The company plans on having 5 of these new concepts built by the end of the year.

**Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants Inc.** has announced the signing of a 100-unit deal to be developed in Brazil. This is the company's first foray in Brazil with the first location opening in early 2020.

**FAT Brands Inc.** has partnered with Croft Ventures LLC to develop 25 locations of their Fatburger brand in Texas. The company has also signed a deal to develop five Fatburger/Buffalo's Express joint concepts in Pakistan. The company also opened their first New Mexico location of their Fatburger brand.

**Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corporation** has unveiled the look of their redesigned stores at a location in Concord, North Carolina. The company plans on remodeling 45 more stores with this new design by 2020.

**Panera Bread Company** has teamed up with HMSHost to help expand their brand into major airports in the U.S. There are two Panera locations slated to open at airports in Charlotte, NC and Salt Lake City, Utah respectively. Various other locations are expected to open in airports and travel plaza locations throughout 2020 and the following years.

**Perkins & Marie Callender's Inc.** has closed 10 Perkins and 19 Marie Callender's locations amid filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and anticipating a sale.

**Steak n Shake Operations Inc.** previously had reported the 'temporary' closure of 44 stores with the intent to close all 400 company-owned stores and then have them be reopened by franchisees. That number of temporary closures has now risen to 103.

**Sushi Sake**, a popular Miami Sushi bar currently with 14 locations, is looking to expand in the Florida, Texas, Illinois and New York areas. To entice potential franchisees they are running a deal that if they commit to opening three locations they will only have to pay two franchise fees.

**Yum! Brands Inc.** has stated that, over the next two years, upwards of 500 underperforming 'dine-in' domestic Pizza Huts may close. The intention is to swap out these stores with their 'express stores' in order to prompt better future growth as consumer demands change focus to more delivery and takeout options.

### Financial Focus

**Cheesecake Factory Incorporated** has purchased Fox Restaurant Concepts. FRC will function as a free-standing, wholly-owned subsidiary of the company. As part of the deal; the company also purchased the remainder of North Italia that it had not already purchased from FRC.

**Clyde's Restaurant Group** was acquired by Graham Holdings Co. This move comes after Clyde's former CEO and co-founder John Laytham passed away in January of this year.

**Elite Restaurant Group** has acquired the Gigi's Cupcakes brand. This is the fourth brand to operate under the company's umbrella. The company also acquired the remaining Project Pie restaurant locations and will be reopening the locations under their Patxi's Pizza brand.

## On Location

**Blaze Pizza LLC** has signed a deal to develop 7 new locations in Texas and Louisiana.

**Elite Restaurant Group** has announced that it has closed 11 of its Daphne's branded restaurants due to poor sales. All of these locations were in Texas. In addition, Elite acquired the rights to 50 locations of the Project Pie brand that were in development in Asia. These locations will be rebranded under the company's Patxi's Pizza brand.

**Dunkin Brands Group Inc.** has announced a multi-unit deal to develop 10 Baskins-Robbins stores in Upstate New York.

**The Habit Restaurants Inc.** has signed a deal for 7 restaurants in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The company has also announced plans to open 25 locations throughout Cambodia the first of which will open in 2020.

**Marco's Franchising LLC** has announced a deal to develop 15 new stores in the Denver, Colorado area. The company currently has 20 locations in the area.

**Meritage Hospitality Group Inc.** has signed a deal, to close at the end of Q3, for the purchase of 10 Wendy's located in Georgia and Texas. The company has also reportedly entered into a deal with Wendy's to develop 40 locations within the next 5 years.

**Potbelly Corporation** just signed deals to develop 10 stores in Nevada, 15 in Florida and 13 throughout the Carolinas. In addition, they closed 10 units in Q2.

**Walk-On's Enterprises** has stated expansion plans to develop 20 new locations to the franchise over the next five years in Georgia. According to their website they also have 12 new locations coming soon in various states in the south and southeast.

## Retail (Apparel, Discount, Hardware)

### Industry Insight

**Costco Wholesale Corp.** will soon make its debut in China, with a new store opening in Shanghai.

**Eloquii Design Inc.** has opened a store at King of Prussia shopping center in King of Prussia, PA. The 2,500 sq. ft. store is the brand's sixth physical location.

**James Avery Craftsman Inc.** has opened its second airport location at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, TX.

**Levi Strauss & Co.** announced it will open its first store in Asia, in Tokyo, Japan.

**L.L. Bean Inc.** will soon open its first store in Canada. The retailer announced a 13,000 sq. ft. store will open August 23 in Oakville Place, just outside of Toronto.

**M.M.LaFleur** has opened a 2,300 sq. ft. location at Post Oak Central in Houston, TX.

**JCPenney Co. Inc.** and **Macy's Inc.** announced a new partnership with thredUP, the world's largest online consignment store.

**Target Corporation** is rolling out Drive Up to more than 300 new stores, making curbside pickup available at more than 1,550 stores total. As part of the expansion, for the first time Drive Up is coming to New England.

**Target Corporation** announced plans to open dedicated Disney Stores at 25 Target locations in October, and 40 more opening by October 2020.

## Financial Focus

**1-800-Flowers.com** has acquired Shari's Berries.

**A'Gaci LLC** announced it has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and will close all of its 54 retail stores. The majority of the closings to be completed by August 31.

**Barneys New York** filed for bankruptcy protection with a plan to close most of its stores as it looks to find a buyer.

**Lolli and Pops, Inc.** recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

**Nike Inc.** announced it has acquired Celect, a Boston-based retail predictive analytics and demand-sensing firm. Celect's team will immediately be integrated into Nike's global operations team.

**Party City Holdco Inc.** announced **Canadian Tire Corp.** will acquire the retail business and assets of Party City's Canadian subsidiary, including its 65 stores. The transaction is expected to close by October 1, 2019.

**Rent-A-Center Inc.** announced that it has completed its previously announced acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Merchants Preferred.

**Steve Madden Ltd.** said that it has acquired Greats, a digitally native footwear brand specializing in premium sneakers made in Italy. The company has also acquired BB Dakota, a California-based, on-trend women's apparel company, whose portfolio includes owned brands BB Dakota and Jack by BB Dakota and licensed brand Cupcakes and Cashmere.

## On Location

**Avenue Stores, LLC** is closing all of its 222 stores, which are located across 33 states

**Dollar General Corp.** has officially opened the doors to its 16th distribution center, located in Longview, TX.

**It'Sugar** is set to open its largest location to date. The retailer plans for a 22,000 sq. ft. store, which is set to open in late October, in East Rutherford, NJ.

**Spice & Tea Exchange** expects to open 7 new stores and end the year with a total of 75 locations. With a goal of 100 stores in 2020, the company is looking to grow in California, Arizona and Georgia.

**Stage Stores Inc.** plans to convert an additional 100 stores to Gordmans in 2020, bringing the total number of conversions to 250. The company has 17 planned conversions in September of 2019.

**Target Corporation** now has nearly 100 small-format stores across the country on college campuses and in urban neighborhoods. It plans to open about 30 more annually over the next few years.

## Grocery, C-Store, Drug & Health

### Industry Insight

**Brookshire Grocery Co.** announced Suzanne Osbourn has been promoted to VP, Partner Relations and Development, and Jason Cooper has been promoted to VP, Corporate Development and Real Estate.

**H-E-B** announced it plans to build a 150,000 square foot technology center at its San Antonio, TX, headquarters.

**Giant Eagle Inc.** plans to add health stations from high to 218 of its stores in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Maryland. The high stations offer free health screenings and health education tools and resources.

**Giant Food Stores LLC** announced it will open a two-level, 65,000 sq. ft. urban flagship in downtown Philadelphia, PA. The new store is expected to open by fall of 2020.

**SpartanNash Company** revealed the decision to exit its Indianapolis-based Fresh Kitchen operations. The company anticipates the transition to be completed by the close of fiscal 2019.

**Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.** announced it has signed a lease for a 12,040 sq. ft. store in Herald Square in New York City, NY.

**Wakefern Food Corp.** plans to remodel 17 more Price Rite Marketplace stores this year in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, with additional locations slated for redesign in 2020.

### Financial Focus

**Bowden Oil Company Inc.** has exited the convenience-store industry by selling its chain of 17 Shop "N" Fill Food Mart locations to **Majors Management LLC**.

**EG America LLC** has entered into an agreement to acquire **Cumberland Farms Inc.** and its 562 convenience stores in the Northeast and Florida.

**Giant Food Stores LLC** has entered into an agreement with **Musser's Market** to acquire its three Pennsylvania locations in Columbia, Lebanon and Quarryville.

**Riiser Fuels LLC** has acquired Jetz Convenience Centers' four c-stores in Wisconsin.

**Vitamin Shoppe Industries** announced it is being acquired by Liberty Tax. The deal is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019.

## **On Location**

**Aldi Inc.** announced plans to open four stores in North Carolina, eight new stores across Minnesota, and its first store in Montgomery, Alabama.

**CVS Health** will open approximately 100 stores this year and plans to open approximately 50 stores next year.

**King Kullen Grocery Co. Inc.** is closing three supermarkets in New York.

**Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.** announced plans to close approximately 200 U.S. stores.

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## Get Rewarded: Introducing CSG's Loyalty Rewards Program

Chain Store Guide is excited to announce its new client loyalty program; CSG Platinum VIP. This elite program is designed to reward dedicated customers that invest in our products & services and rely on CSG to provide the highest quality retail & foodservice sales leads and market data. Contact us to learn more about the Platinum VIP rewards program.

Databases are updated daily by our in-house research center. Industry databases are sold separately. Companies and personnel validated through CSG Verify must meet the minimum criteria for inclusion to be accepted into the CSG database; once it has met those criteria, the cleaned data will be available from your online CSG Connect portal. Dashboards and features may not be available for all online databases, contact us for more details.